

Best Practices in Digital Radiography: A Survey of Radiographers

Trina Koscielicki, M.Ed., R.T.(R)
Associate Professor and Director
Radiologic Science Program
Northern Kentucky University

Shannon Alexander, MHA, R.T.(T)(R)
Assistant Professor and Director
Health Science Program
Northern Kentucky University

Digital radiography has been widely employed for more than a decade; however, the advanced technology can present challenges to radiographers. Although the ASRT published a white paper by Herrmann, et al, in 2012 that discussed best practices in digital radiography, many questions still exist with regard to optimal use of digital imaging equipment. For example, have radiographers become more knowledgeable about optimal use of exposure techniques? Are they using digital equipment appropriately? A survey was conducted on both national and local levels to determine whether the best practices identified in the white paper were actually being implemented. Results indicate that while most radiographers are following established best practices, there are still some areas of concern regarding the following reported practices: the use of electronic collimation to include cropping off anatomy included in the original exposure field, a lack of knowledge of and/or use of exposure indicators to evaluate appropriate radiation exposure, use of annotation instead of lead anatomical markers, and inconsistent use of high kV/low mAs exposure factors to reduce dose. Results were very similar between the national and local surveys. Suggestions were provided for radiography educators and managers to promote best practices among radiography students and clinical staff.

Keywords: digital radiography, best practices, exposure indicators, electronic collimation

Also participating in this research project, but not a colloquium presenter:

Diane Gronefeld, M.Ed., R.T.(R)
Professor, Radiologic Science Program
Northern Kentucky University